

Natchitoches Historic District Development Commission

Full Commission Meeting

10:00 AM – 10:35 AM

January 16, 2020

PRESENT: Van Erikson, Payne Williams, Arlene Gould, Sandra Dickens, Edd Lee, Terri Cunningham, Jill Leo, Stewart Carnline, Rebecca Blakenbaker, Mayor Lee Posey, Sharon Gahagan

GUEST PRESENT: Carrie Hough, Secretary; Eddie Norris, KTBS; Juanice Gray, Jody Lyle, Acting Superintendent for CRCHP

CALL TO ORDER: Van Erikson called the meeting to order. Van welcomed the commission back to the newly renovated Arts Building. Sign in sheet was passed around. The commission review the minutes from the November 21, 2019 Full Commission Meeting. Motion to accept the minutes from the November 21, 2019 Full Commission Meeting was made Arlene Gould and 2nd by Sharon Gahagan. All approved, motion passes.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT: Jessica Broadway– Discussion on the financial statement as of December 31, 2019. Our balance as of December 31, 2019 is \$228,355.32. Check register for December \$63,331.89. Motion to approve the financial statement made by Sharon Gahagan and 2nd by Payne Williams.

- Arlene Gould asked when we received our money from the state, Jessica Broadway stated that we received our money from the State on October 15, we received our normal amount. All approved, motion passes.

OLD BUSINESS:

Rebecca Blakenbaker gave an update on the Widget App. She stated that they continue to see improvement on the app. They have a great download rate and user rate for the month of December, which tells us that our visitors were using the app. They had received a lot of compliments from the historic district businesses and restaurants. They stated that their customers have stated that they liked the app and used the app. We will continue to push the app and work on ways to market the app. Rebecca stated that the billboard currently has the Christmas Festival. We will be putting an app skin back on the billboard.

Arlene Gould asked about the wifi project. Van Erikson stated that the plan was way more than we anticipated or slotted in the budget. We wanted to have enough wifi for the user activity and the project wouldn't cover what our historic district needed. The money went back into Other Special Projects for future events/projects.

NEW BUSINESS:

Van Erikson gave an update on NSU. February 29 will be the N-Side View Day, this is for Juniors and Seniors. The event will start at 10 am and ends around 3-4pm. Scholars Day is March 14 for the Scholars College. Dragon Boat Races will be downtown on April 4.

Sandra Dickens gave an update on HDBA. They had a wonderful Christmas Season. They are gearing up for Bloomin' on the Bricks, March 14. The Girls Getaway Weekend is April 3-5.

Jody Lyle, acting superintendent for the Cane River Creole Historical Park gave an update. She comes from Yellowstone National Park and has 26 years with the park services. She has been in Natchitoches for a month and will be in town through mid March. Carrie Mardorf will be coming back mid March. They are having an onsite project, just started last week and will go another three weeks. They are on phase three of historic preservation of the slave tenant cabins at the Magnolia Plantation.

Arlene Gould gave an update for the Tourist Commission. The Krewe of Wag-uns will roll prior to the Krewe of Dionysos on Saturday, February 22.

Rebecca Blakenbaker gave a report for the CRNHA. They are undergoing a \$150,000 renovation of Los Adaes. They started this week, they are redoing the interior of the visitor's center. Later in February they will redo the decking and phase 1 of recreational trail project. They will do a ribbon cutting in early May. The Find Your Park Festival will happen on Saturday, April 25. It is free and open to the public.

Terri Cunningham gave a report for NHF. Christmas Tour of Homes was very successful. They had a lot of young people attend this year. They hit the \$20,000 mark, which is very good. They had a lot of people on Thursday of the tour, around 150 people. They are in full planning mode on the Roque House, close to \$500,000 project. March 14, in conjunction with Bloomin on the Bricks, they will host a garden symposium.

Jill Leo gave a report on Main Street. February 22 is the Krewe of Dionysos Parade. March 7 is the Reading on the Cane, hosted by the Service League, CRNHA, Literacy Dept at NSU including Mrs. Maggio, etc. March 14th is Bloomin on the Bricks, Art Along the Bricks, Garden Tours, Kappa on the Cane. March 21 is the NYP Pub Crawl. April 3-5 is Girls Getaway Weekend, April 4 Dragon Boat Races, and Farmers Market will begin April 25. Jazz Festival May 15 & 16. SMS Spring Fling is penciled in for the first weekend in May.

Eddie Norris gave an update for KTBS.

Edd Lee and Mayor Posey gave an update on City Projects. The Arts Council Building is finished and it looks great. Sports Park is almost complete and is booked starting in February through the summer. They are purchasing some more tracks of land for around the sports park for hiking, trails, etc.

Van Erikson stated to have all members complete the 2020 Ethics Online Training and to submit the certificate to Carrie. To complete the training visit www.ethics.la.gov.

Van Erikson stated to have the Tier 2.1 Personal Financial Disclosure Statement is due on or before May 15. You can access the disclosure at www.ethics.state.la.us.